



Missouri Community Service Commission's Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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SIMMONS TAKES OVER AS NEW DED DIRECTOR

With the start of a new year, came the beginning of a new era at the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Kelvin Simmons took over as the new Department Director on January 1. Simmons replaces Joe Driskill, who resigned after ten years as the director.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY AT PURDY SCHOOL

January 19, 2004 was a special day at Purdy Elementary for the students and their "AmeriCorps" reading coaches. After learning about Dr. King, the students wrote their own "I have a dream" journal.

Kindergarteners and first graders wrote dreams for themselves, their families, and their school:

A Dream for Myself:

I would like to be a veterinarian.
Paofue, Kindergarten

A dream for My Family:

All my family to be together.
Zaira, First Grade

A Dream for My School:

I want my school to have fun.
Levi, First Grade

The second through fifth graders used words that were important to Dr. King and to the students. They used words such as "respect, problem-solving, equality, family, and community". They were asked to put into words, their dreams just as Dr. King had in his "I have a dream" speech on August 28, 1963.

Respect:

To be nice to others and the way you want to be treated, help other people, help little kids get where they need to go.
Jessica, 5th grade

Problem Solving:

My sister and I had an argument, I said I am sorry.
Samantha, 3rd grade

Equality:

Because it's right.
Tyler, 3rd grade

Family:

They take care of me. They provide for me. They love me.
They make sure I have what I need.
Cindy, 4th grade

Community:

Open the door when people have a lot of stuff. Aldo, 3rd grade

My Dream:

My dream is that everyone be nice to others and have freedom, no more wars and no more killing...and all together be safe and respect others and be nice to everyone.

Joab, 5th grade

Purdy's Bilingual Coach with a 5th grader



This was a wonderful learning experience for the students, coaches who did the activity and for the directors who got to read the dream journals.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASS AT PURDY SCHOOL

Ten high school students are participating in the community service class sponsored by the AmeriCorps program at Purdy School. These students are assigned to an elementary classroom where they tutor for one class period each school day.

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This has been one huge success story at Purdy. The school campus holds grades Pre-school-12th, which allows the students to walk to the elementary wing, eliminating the transportation barrier. Participants receive grades based on attendance, teacher's participation scores, a quarterly success paper written by the student on how they feel about the class, and what they have accomplished on a personal level.

This class is well received by the high school students and elementary teachers who are very excited and interested in having a student in their classroom:



"Her sense of humor is good for the students. One student has really taken off on reading because of her."

Mrs. DeGreve, Special Ed

"Works well with the students. Very willing to participate in and/or lead activities."

Mrs. Ball, Pre-school

"As my semester progressed, every day brought new wonder. As I walked the hall towards the elementary class to meet my kids, I found myself wondering, what new stories the kids would tell me today, what questions they might have for me prior to the start of my reading to them or them reading to me. I never really knew what to expect. I could however, guarantee I would enter my classroom and immediately smile because of the excited faces that usually greeted me."

Randi Jurgensen, Senior

"I love all the kids and they have done as much for me as I have done for them. They are all so sweet and funny. I enjoy going to my class everyday and the feeling I get from helping them.

Working with Mrs. Redshaw and her class has made me consider becoming a teacher. I really like working with kids and the class I'm working with now is so smart. So my success story is: Working with this class has helped me consider a part of my future."

Amanda Stecker, Junior

The Purdy High School Community Service courses provide seniors the opportunity to tutor elementary students in either one-on-one or group settings. Aside from the personal rewards that seniors receive from helping these younger students, they also have the opportunity to view the educational process from a different perspective. Through this program, we have also seen the difference that our seniors make in the lives of our elementary students who receive their assistance—the changes in these younger students' self-esteem and the friendship they share with our seniors are invaluable and irreplaceable.

Bob Vice, Purdy High School Principal

STATE AWARDS GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS ACROSS MISSOURI

The Missouri Department of Economic Development awarded \$677,721 in grants today to assist both urban and rural communities in housing, community and economic development activities.

The Community Development Corporation (CDC) Grant Program is designed to fund projects that encourage community organizations to work together to strategically redevelop economically depressed areas. A CDC is a community-based organization governed by a local board that uses its resources to attract capital, develop or

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rehabilitate low-income housing and increase business development and job opportunities for its residents.

"We know that strong and vibrant communities are essential to attracting jobs and businesses to our state," said Joseph L. Driskill, DED director. "One of the most important things that the state can do is to partner with our communities and help them become self-sufficient and improve the quality of life for their residents. Through the CDC Program, the state can reach out to the communities and neighborhoods that are most in need with resources for projects that will help our citizens prosper in the years ahead."

The CDCs receiving state grants for Fiscal Year 2004 include programs for job mentoring, affordable housing, job training and placement, transitional services, small business counseling and incubation services for businesses. The grant awards were based on the determination of a CDC's ability to demonstrate resourcefulness in their development efforts, such as support from outside sources, and to produce measurable outcomes for their communities and neighborhoods.

The following community-based organizations received 2004 CDC grants:

Organization Name	City	Grant Amount
Blue Hills Development Co.	Kansas City	\$75,000
Hispanic Economic Development Corporation	Kansas City	\$75,000
Butler County Community Resource Council	Poplar Bluff	\$37,907
EOC Community Action Agency	St. Joseph	\$75,000
Beyond Housing Inc./Neighborhood Housing Services	St. Louis	\$64,000
CIBC Westend Academy	St. Louis	\$68,800
Center for Women in Transition	St. Louis	\$70,274
Grace Hill Neighborhood Services	St. Louis	\$70,500
Hi-Tech Charities	St. Louis	\$75,000
Human Development Corporation	St. Louis	\$66,240

The Missouri General Assembly established the CDC program in 1997. For more information on the Community Development Corporation Grant program, contact the Department of Economic Development at (573) 522-6155 or e-mail cdc@ded.mo.gov.

For more news and opportunities from the Missouri Department of Economic Development, go to <http://www.ded.mo.gov/>.

MISSOURI SERVICE DAY – MARCH 17, 2004

Missouri Service Day is a celebration for all national service programs including Learn and Serve America, AmeriCorps, VISTA and Senior Service Corps. Individuals participating in national service across the state will join to honor their hard work and dedication to serving others.

This annual event will be held in Jefferson City on Wednesday, March 17, 2004.

The day will include service projects, various educational workshops, visits to legislators, and an awards ceremony for outstanding volunteer service. For more information, contact Lynne Brandt at (573) 751-7488.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

8:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Registration (HST Room 490/492)
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open (HST Room 400)
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Opening Session I (Central & Northeast Regions)
9:40 – 10:30 a.m.	Workshops
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Session II (Repeat) (Southeast, Southwest & Northwest Regions)
10:40 – 11:30 a.m.	Workshops (Repeat)
11:30 a.m.	Lunch Pick up lunch in the Room 490/492 of the Truman Building and take it to the Capitol Lawn to eat during the awards ceremony.
Noon – 1:15 p.m.	Awards Ceremony (Front steps of the Capitol) In case of inclement weather, the Awards Ceremony will be held in the First Floor Rotunda.
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Workshops

PRESIDENT'S 2005 BUDGET WOULD ENGAGE RECORD NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN SERVICE

(WASHINGTON) - President George W. Bush proposed a nine percent increase in funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service in his 2005 budget request released today. The funding would allow more Americans than ever to meet community needs through serving in the Corporation's Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs.

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The proposed 2005 budget, which covers the fiscal year starting October 1, 2004, requests \$1.018 billion for the Corporation and its programs. This represents an increase of \$82 million over the fiscal 2004 enacted levels. The budget would support 600,000 senior volunteers, 75,000 AmeriCorps members, and more than 1.5 million youth in service-learning activities.

"Once again President Bush has demonstrated his strong support for the Corporation and its programs," said Corporation CEO David Eisner in a statement. "Coming on the heels of the historic increase recently enacted for AmeriCorps, the 2005 budget request is another affirmation of the value of national and community service and the good our programs and grantees accomplish for our nation."

Highlights of the budget request include:

§ \$224 million for Senior Corps, including \$70 million for RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), \$107 million for the Foster Grandparent Program, and \$47 million for the Senior Companion Program. In addition, the budget requests \$20 million for the Silver Scholarships program, which will train and deploy 9,800 seniors to mentor and tutor young children in their communities. Each tutor who volunteers 500 hours will receive a \$1,000 scholarship that can be transferred to a grandchild or other young person. The proposed funding increase of \$12 million for RSVP, coupled with seniors serving in the Special Volunteer Program, the new Silver Scholarship program, and funding to expand online recruiting, will allow Senior Corps to reach the President's goal of 600,000 senior volunteers in 2005.

§ \$46 million for Learn and Serve America, a \$3 million increase over fiscal 2004 and the first increase proposed in a decade. Learn and Serve America provides grants to state education agencies, schools, colleges, and nonprofit organizations to develop programs and curricula that link academic instruction with community service for more than one million students. The added funding will be targeted toward providing high-quality training for educators in service-learning.

§ Funding to continue AmeriCorps at 75,000 members, the same class size as fiscal 2004. AmeriCorps received a historic funding increase in the 2004 omnibus appropriations bill signed by the President on January 23, 2004. That increase allowed the program to grow by 50 percent, from 50,000 members annually to 75,000 members annually. AmeriCorps members serve with thousands of national and local nonprofit and faith-based organizations. They teach and tutor children, make neighborhoods safer, respond to natural disasters, build affordable homes, and recruit community volunteers. The 2005 request includes \$442 million for AmeriCorps grants and the National Service Trust, \$96 million for AmeriCorps*VISTA, and \$27 million for AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).

§ \$15 million for Special Volunteer Programs, a 50 percent increase over fiscal 2004, to support homeland security activities in public safety, public health, and disaster relief and preparedness. The majority of volunteers are expected to be over 55.

§ \$10 million for Challenge Grants, a \$7.6 million increase over fiscal 2004. This program, launched in 2003, awards grants for nonprofit organizations that match the Corporation's dollars at a ratio of more than 2 to 1. Grants were awarded to eight organizations, although 53 applied. The proposed increase will support more challenge grants and spur additional private support for nonprofits and charitable groups.

§ \$4 million for Next Generation Grants, a \$3 million increase over fiscal 2004. Last year the Corporation launched this program to provide seed money to help plan and implement new service programs that have the potential to become national in scope. Grantees had received no prior funding from the Corporation and have organizational budgets of \$500,000 or less. The Corporation received a record 1,100 applications for funding, the highest number of applications ever received for a Corporation grant competition. The proposed increase will allow the Corporation to support more high-quality grantees and is an important way to assist small faith-based and community organizations.

§ The budget restores the operational and administrative line accounts required to oversee the Corporation's large network of programs and support its aggressive management reform agenda. Several accounts were not fully funded in the 2004 budget, including program administration, evaluation, and training and technical assistance. The 2005 budget restores those accounts, doubles investment in employee training, supports further improvements in the web-based grants management system, and provides funds for more active grantee oversight, including regular site visits and targeted technical assistance for high-risk grantees. "This budget request is a sign of how vital our programs are to President Bush's goal of creating a new culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in our nation," commented Corporation CEO Eisner. "Our employees, our members and volunteers, and the tens of thousands of community and faith-based organizations that are getting results and making a difference on the local level should feel that their work is being recognized and appreciated at the highest levels."

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through the Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs. Working with national and community nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies, the Corporation engages Americans in meeting critical needs in education, the environment, public safety,

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homeland security, and other areas while fostering the habits of good citizenship. The Corporation and its programs are a key part of USA Freedom Corps, the White House initiative to help all Americans answer the President's Call to Service. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.org.

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FUNDING TO BUILD/RENOVATE HOUSING

The Department of Economic Development has several programs to assist not-for-profit organizations with housing projects:

Neighborhood Assistance Program provides assistance to community-based organizations that enable them to implement community or neighborhood projects in the areas of community service, education, crime prevention, job training and physical revitalization. The Department of Economic Development will issue 50-70% state income tax credits to an eligible taxpayer that donates money to an approved Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) project.

Community Development Block Grant Program offers three categories of funding to assist with construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing. Since a unit of local government, such as a city or county, is the only official eligible applicant for CDBG, a not-for-profit organization would need to work with the community as a sub-applicant.

Programs include: CDBG Neighborhood Development Program provides assistance to communities for residential property rehabilitation, neighborhood public infrastructure improvements, and demolition of unsafe structures.

CDBG Open Cycle Housing allows communities to meet housing needs not related to rehabilitation or low-income housing tax credit financing. Eligible activities can include construction or homeownership financing, and applicants may propose to serve specific special needs projects or may combine housing with other activities such as job training.

CDBG Rural Affordable Housing - makes housing development feasible in rural communities that have the need but are lacking conventional resources, by rehabilitation of existing multi-family units or rehabilitation of historic structures proposed for housing.

Community Development Corporation Program provides both grants and tax credits for projects designed to encourage communities to work together to strategically redevelop economically depressed areas, including economic development projects and job creation.

The Missouri Housing Development Commission provides funding for affordable housing to qualified nonprofit organizations and for-profit developers. Financing includes:

- MHDC Fund Balance Loans
- Federal HOME Funds
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- Missouri Housing Trust Fund
- Missouri Affordable Housing Assistance Program
- HOME Repair Program
- Rental Production Information

HOUSING: INDIVIDUALS

The Department of Economic Development has several programs to assist individuals with housing projects:

Neighborhood Preservation offers state income tax credits to homeowners and developers who construct new homes or renovates home in certain designated areas of the state.

The Missouri Housing Development Commission provides funding for affordable housing to qualified nonprofit organizations and for-profit developers. Financing includes:

- MHDC Fund Balance Loans
- Federal HOME Funds
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- Missouri Housing Trust Fund
- Missouri Affordable Housing Assistance Program
- HOME Repair Program
- Rental Production Information

Historic Tax Credit provides state income tax credits of 25% of eligible costs and expenses for the rehabilitation of approved historic buildings. The structure must be a certified historic structure and listed on the National Register of Historic Places or be part of a certified historic district. Not for profit entities and government entities are not eligible.

WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONERS!

Please join me in welcoming our newest commissioners:
Carrie Vanderford
Ryan Horsman
Vicki Rhew
Dana Hardy
Lorna Crockrum

The next bi-monthly MCSC newsletter will be published the first week of April. If you have any success stories that you want to share, important announcements, etc., please send them to linda.jackson@ded.mo.gov not later than March 29th, 2004.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

April 16 – 18, 2004



National Youth Service Day involves millions of young Americans, identifying and addressing the needs of their communities through service.

Youth, businesses, families, schools, individuals and local organizations plan activities that will serve and improve their communities.

National Youth Service Day is an awesome opportunity to educate the public about the role of youth as community leaders.



For more information, call the Missouri Community Service Commission office at (573) 751-7488 or visit the Youth Service America website at www.ysa.org.



Calendar Update – Workshops and Events

February 19, 2004 10:00-12:30	FDA (Family Development Accounts) Application Workshop	Governor's Office Building Room 460 Jefferson City, MO	
March 2, 2004 10:00-12:30	YOP (Youth Opportunities Program) Application Workshop	Harry S Truman Building Room 510 Jefferson City, MO	For further information, contact LeAnn Korsmeyer (573) 751-4539
March 2, 2004 1:30 – 3:00 pm	YOP Administrative Workshop	Harry S Truman Building Room 510 Jefferson City, MO	
March 12, 2004	Mandatory AmeriCorps Formula and Grant Application Workshop	Harry S Truman Building Jefferson City, MO	For registration and further information, contact Lynne Brandt at (573) 751-7488
March 15, 2004	Deadline for submitting NAP (Neighborhood Assistance Program) Application. Must be postmarked by March 15 th .		For further information, contact LeAnn Korsmeyer (573) 751-4539
April 16, 2004	Formula & Planning Grant Applications for AmeriCorps funds due		For registration and further information, contact Lynne Brandt at (573) 751-7488